also engaged in catching India's fishing on Indian Waters; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to save this wealth from the foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Six foreign trawlers were sighted by Coast Guard aircraft on 15th October, 1988, illegally fishing in Indian waters, 60 NM west of Porbander. Coast Guard ship VIKRAM which was operating in the area, was ordered to proceed and apprehend these trawlers. The ship successfully intercepted these trawlers, who tried to flee away on seeing the Coast Guard ship. The ship posted its own armed parties on board, and escorted these trawlers to Bombay. The apprehended trawlers, alongwith their 164 crew members, arrived at Bombay on 17 October, 1988 and were handed over to police for further legal actions under MZI Act|Rules, 1982.

These are large ocean going trawlers with modern and sophisticated facilities for detection of fish, processing and refrigeration machinery. The details of the trawlers are placed at Appendix.

(c) Fishing boats|trawlers of the countries, with whom India shares maritime boundaries, have only been found and apprehended in the recnt past in Iidian waters.

(d) Maritime Zones of India are kept under surveillance by the Coast Guard, to the extent possible. The Naval ships|aircraft and merchant ships|boats flying the Indian flags, have also been instructed to report any foreign poacher to Indian authorities, if encountered at sea by them during their routine deployment|passage.

Foreign collaboration in Pepsico project

1799. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Statesman of June 29, 1988 under the caption "Food Processing Unit's future brightens";

(b) whether it is a fact that this Ministry has been formed for the purpose of clearing the Punjab Agro-Pepsico project;

(c) whether the said proposal for manufacturing Potato Chips, Fruit Juice beverages and soft Drinks cannot be implemented without a foreign collaboration; and

(d) the names of the companies who are manufacturing Potato Chips, Fruit Juice beverages and Soft Drinks in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Government is aware of the news item referred to in this part of the question.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Even though potato chips etc. can be manufactured without foreign collaboration, import of technology is permitted in order to improve quality and reduce cost and where there is a strong export effort.

(d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expansion of AIR network in the country

1800. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply to U.Q. 1013 given in Rajya Sabha on 18-11-1988 and state whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision for tremendous expan-

sion of AIR network in the country; if so, whether this will be both in terms of quantity and quality?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Yes, Sir.

Steps to remove unemployment

1801. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable increase in the number of educated unemployed persons in the country, and if so, State-wise break up as on 31st October, 1988;

(b) whether any new steps, has been taken by Government to remove unemployment from the country; and

(c) funds, if any, allocated for this purpose by Government?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) to (c) According to the Seventh Plan Document, unemployment among the educated manpower (which includes matriculates, graduates and above) was estimated to be 3.7 million as at the beginning of 1985. No further information is available. The policies and programmes/schemes on employment generation are also given in the same docuation is available. The policies and progrstage.

Storage of edible oils

1802. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that edible oils are not being stored in the country in the warehouses;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to store imported and indigenous edible oils to meet the demands of deficit States; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Trading Corporation has been keeping about 2 lakh tonnes of imported edible oils physically available at all times for the Public Distribution System. This is a buffer stock besides oils in the pipeline which arrive at regular intervals. These stocks of oils are kept at various Depots of the STC throughout the country.

Loss of foodgrains due to heavy rains/floods

1803. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains damaged due to heavy rains/floods for want of proper storage or otherwise during the period from 1st January to 31st October, 1988;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains damaged/lost in transit during the same period alongwith value thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to minimise such losses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India, the main public agency handling Government stocks, finalizes its accounts for damages/losses annually. However, according to provisional figures, 21,000 tones of foodgrains got damaged with FCI during the period from January, 1988 to September, 1988 during storage, transportation and multiple handling due to factors beyond human control such as rains, floods, cyclones, etc.

(c) The steps taken to minimise losses/damages consist of storage of foodgrains in damp proof and rodent proof godowns